

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, PK
SUBJECT: GOP ANNOUNCES SHAH AGREES TO CO-SPONSOR THIRD WORLD
SUMMIT

1. THE PAKISTAN PRESS JANUARY 5 FRONT PAGED THE GOP ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SHAH OF IRAN HAS AGREED TO CO-SPONSOR PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S PROPOSAL FOR A THIRD WORLD SUMMIT. THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS DESCRIBED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI IN A PRESS BRIEFING AS
A DIRECT RESULT OF THE RECENT BHUTTO VISIT TO TEHRAN. SHAHI SAID THAT THE SHAH'S COSPONSORSHIP WAS "OF IMMENSE IMPORTANCE." SHAHI STATED THAT PAKISTAN HAD SOUGHT OTHER CO-SPONSORS FOR THE SUMMIT, BUT DID NOT NAME THEM. HE ALSO REPEATED THE FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS FOR THE SUMMIT, CITING THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, UNCTAD AND SIMILAR FORA, AND REAFFIRMING THAT THE SUMMIT WAS NOT INTENDED AS AN "ANTI-NONALIGNED" MOVE.

2. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE SHAH IS THE FIRST HEAD OF STATE WHOM THE GOP HAS DESCRIBED AS "CO-SPONSORING" THE SUMMIT. THE GOP HAS BEEN ANXIOUS FOR IRANIAN SUPPORT, BOTH BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPECTIBILITY IT WOULD LEND TO THE SUMMIT PROPOSAL AND AS A MANIFESTATION OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND IRAN.

3. FROM WHAT INFORMATION WE HAVE HERE, HOWEVER, SUPPORT FOR THE SUMMIT PROPOSAL MUST STILL BE A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE GOP. PRESS

REPORTS IN MID-AUGUST SAID THAT 21 COUNTRIES HAD SUPPORTED THE SUMMIT. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY ONLY 15: IRAN, MALTA, MAURITANIA, LIBYA, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, PERU, JORDAN, COLOMBIA, SUDAN, TOGO, LIBERIA, NORWAY, INDONESIA AND POSSIBLY VENEZUELA. IN SOME OF THESE CASES, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SUPPORT IS AT BEST AN OPTIMISTIC READING BY PAKISTAN OF NON-COMMITTAL STATEMENTS MADE ABOUT THE SUMMIT AT MEXICO CITY, THE ABIDJAN ECOSOC SESSION, AND THE UNGA. A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE THIRD WORLD "ESTABLISHMENT" NOTABLY INDIA AND YUGOSLAVIA, ARE STILL APPARENTLY OPPOSED. THERE IS STILL SOME DISTANCE TO GO BEFORE THE SUMMIT ACHIEVES THE BROAD SUPPORT BHUTTO IS SEEKING. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PAKS WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH VIGOROUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY FOR IT.

BYROADE

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